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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In Your mercy, Lord, look upon the House of Representatives and hear our prayer. As many Christians enter a spring penitential season of prayer and fasting, all are reminded that we seemingly come from nothingness and soon return to the dust of the Earth. Life is short. Each of us has limited time before You to prove oneself a contributor of goodness or a drain on society. By Your Spirit, move us to repentance for our sins and to learn from our mistakes of the past.

As people of faith, may we live what we believe and hold ourselves accountable to all those we love and serve by our deeds. May each day, all life long, deepen our conversion of heart; for in Your light we see light now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal. The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NADLER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 111. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the national significance of the Miami Circle site in the State of Florida as well as the suitability and feasibility of its inclusion in the National Park System as part of Biscayne National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 117. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain land in the State of Florida, and for other purposes.

S. 144. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance through States to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative weeds on public and private land.

S. 210. An act to provide for the protection of archaeological sites in the Galisteo Basin in New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 214. An act to designate Fort Bayard Historic District in the State of New Mexico as a National Historic Landmark, and for other purposes.

S. 233. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of Coltsville in the State of Connecticut for potential inclusion in the National Park System.

S. 254. An act to revise the boundary of the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes.

COMMEMORATING 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRES IN GUJARAT, INDIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 1-year anniversary of the massacres in Gujarat, India, by Hindu extremists and extend my sympathies to those families who have suffered so terribly at the hands of the extremists.

Extremism is on the rise in a number of countries including India where leading figures and officials have directly or indirectly supported attacks against and massacres of moderate Muslims, Dalits, also called "untouchables," Christians, and other minorities. The perpetrators of these crimes must be brought to justice.

I have a number of excellent reports here and in my office from human rights organizations like Human Rights Watch, ASSIST, Amnesty International, local Indian NGOs detailing the attacks in Gujarat; and I urge Members to read these reports, respond to the issues facing the people of India today. We must support those who would further democracy and the rule of law and freedom in India, not stifle and suppress it; and these violent extremists must be brought to justice.

OPPOSITION TO SECTION 418 IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition today to the provision of section 418 within H.R. 743, which would have closed a so-called "loophole" relating to the government pension offset. Since this provision was

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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